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# Maine Construction Wage Rates 1995

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Labor Standards

Ruth A. Ladd

*Maine Department of Labor*

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## Maine Construction Wage Rates 1995

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The Maine Construction Wage Survey is conducted annually under the Prevailing Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. The main purpose of the survey is to collect hourly wage data used for setting the following year's minimum rates of pay on State-funded construction projects of \$10,000.00 or more.

- ◆ The 1995 survey initially included 2,328 construction firms. Of those,
  - ◊ 1,436 went out of business or had less than 5 trades workers
  - ◊ 281 survey forms were not returned
  - ◊ 611 forms covering 9,892 workers (45.5% of total construction trades workers) were used to determine wage rates
- ◆ The average hourly wage rates are:
  - ◊ \$10.72 industry wide – a 4.4% increase over 1994
  - ◊ \$10.73 building construction – a 5.8% increase over 1994
  - ◊ \$9.88 highway & heavy construction – a 3.2% increase over 1994
  - ◊ \$11.14 special trades – a 5.0% increase over 1994

Average Hourly Wage Rates  
By Major Industry Group, 1991-1995

	Average Hourly Wage				
	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Construction Industry	\$10.72	\$10.27	\$10.31	\$10.15	\$10.18
Building Construction	10.73	10.14	9.49	9.73	9.71
Highway & Heavy Construction	9.88	9.57	10.09	9.70	9.21
Special Trades Construction	11.14	10.61	10.71	10.58	10.85

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Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1995

	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Building Construction (SIC 15)</b>					
Backhoe Operator	21	\$6.50	\$10.75	\$13.75	\$10.55
Bricklayer	28	8.00	14.06	16.06	13.18
Bulldozer Operator	12	7.00	10.00	12.00	10.03
Carpenter	956	5.00	10.45	24.60	10.59
Cement Mason/Finisher	33	6.00	10.00	16.00	10.25
Crane Operator	11	8.50	13.00	16.00	12.20
Electrician (Licensed)	36	9.00	15.00	18.50	15.14
Ironworker, Structural	105	7.00	15.00	17.40	14.13
Laborer, Helper	427	4.50	8.00	16.00	7.96
Mechanic	12	8.00	11.13	15.00	11.23
Millwright	77	7.50	14.50	15.00	13.94
Painter	22	7.50	9.63	12.50	9.62
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	86	10.50	15.00	17.40	14.76
Sheet Metal Worker	15	6.25	9.00	14.60	9.25

**Highway & Heavy Construction (SIC 16)**

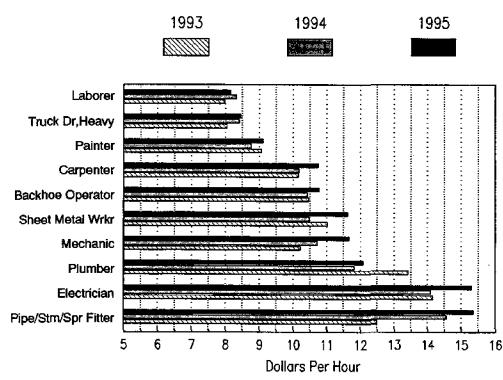
Asphalt Raker	58	6.83	9.30	14.00	9.63
Backhoe Operator	133	8.00	10.50	20.50	11.25
Bulldozer Operator	86	7.00	10.28	15.36	10.78
Carpenter	145	8.00	10.50	15.50	10.81
Cement Mason/Finisher	16	7.50	9.25	12.75	9.70
Crane Operator	48	8.84	12.50	17.81	12.90
Crusher Plant Operator	36	7.00	9.50	13.15	9.94
Driller, Rock	21	6.75	10.00	12.00	10.10
Flagger	25	5.00	5.50	8.50	5.68
Grader/Scraper Operator	30	8.00	10.80	15.40	11.05
Hot Top Plant Operator	24	7.00	10.78	12.77	10.55
Laborer, Helper	671	5.00	7.98	15.00	8.10
Line Erector	18	4.25	12.50	15.15	11.85
Loader Operator, Front-End	131	6.25	10.00	15.40	10.21
Mechanic	146	5.50	10.65	15.00	10.51
Millwright	63	10.50	14.50	22.50	14.50
Paver, Bituminous	56	5.00	9.85	14.05	9.86
Pipelay	18	6.25	9.00	15.36	9.88
Police Operator	96	5.18	9.32	12.77	9.76
Truck Driver, Light	52	6.00	8.00	10.73	8.31
Truck Driver, Heavy	489	6.00	8.25	15.36	8.49

**Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)**

Asbestos Removal Worker	146	7.00	10.38	16.00	10.69
Asphalt Raker	12	6.75	7.88	11.50	8.44
Backhoe Operator	166	5.37	10.25	16.50	10.44
Boilermaker	14	6.50	14.50	22.67	15.89
Bricklayer	116	7.00	13.65	15.50	12.32
Bulldozer Operator	96	6.50	10.00	15.50	10.12
Carpenter	277	6.00	11.00	21.50	11.27

The following graph illustrates the average wage for the ten construction trades in Maine with the highest concentration of workers. Wages for nine of these trades increased while wages for one trade (laborer) decreased in 1995. Although the average 1995 wage for a plumber increased over that of 1994, it remained behind 1993.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,  
By Selected Trades, 1993-1995



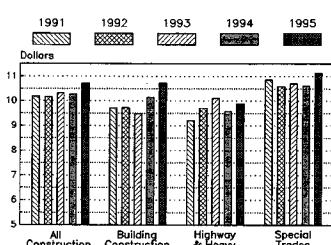
**Technical Notes**

Construction wage rates shown in this publication should not be confused with rates issued with any determination under the Minimum Wage Rate on Construction Projects Law. There are two major differences between this data and the determined rates. First, the industry groups differ significantly. For this publication, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system Major Industry Groups are used. Prevailing wage determinations, on the other hand, cross SIC groups. Second, median rates are used to set prevailing wages while average wages are used for the charts and graphs in this publication.

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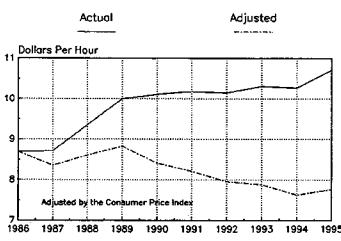
The following graph uses the data from the table on page one to illustrate changes in construction wages. Although there have been some slight changes, there have been no significant changes in construction wages over the past five years.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,  
By Major Industry Group, 1991-1995



The following graph compares the survey's average (actual) construction wage to the construction wage adjusted by the Consumer Price Index to reflect inflation. The average wage for Maine construction workers increased by 4.4 percent in 1995. By comparison, the average wage adjusted by the Consumer Price Index rose by 2.5 percent from 1994. This is the first increase for inflation adjusted wages following decreases each year since 1989 to 1994. As a result, workers had a 1.9 percent increase in buying power for 1995.

Average Hourly Wage Rates,  
And Inflation (1986 Base=\$8.70),  
All Construction, 1986-1995



Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1995  
(continued)

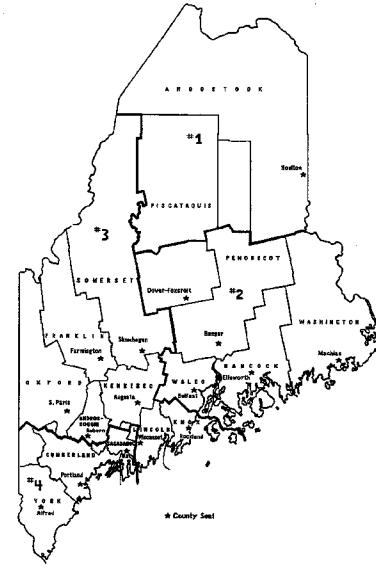
	Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate			
		Low	Median	High	Average
<b>Special Trades Contractors (SIC 17)</b> (continued)					
Cement Mason/Finisher	106	\$5.50	\$9.50	\$19.94	\$9.80
Crane Operator	26	8.00	12.00	15.00	11.81
Crusher Plant Operator	13	7.00	10.00	12.75	10.04
Dry wall Applicator	98	8.00	13.00	22.00	12.77
Dry wall Taper & Finisher	60	10.00	12.50	17.00	12.55
Electrician (Licensed)	554	6.50	15.78	26.00	15.41
Glazier	19	6.00	9.50	12.75	9.55
Grader-Scraper Operator	16	8.50	8.50	16.00	9.31
Insulation Installer	85	5.91	9.50	13.75	9.09
Ironworker, Structural	56	8.00	11.00	18.07	11.39
Laborer, Helper	1,023	4.85	8.00	16.50	8.29
Line Erector	26	7.50	13.50	18.00	12.67
Loader Operator, Front End	86	5.50	9.00	14.00	9.21
Mechanic	136	6.00	12.00	19.00	12.94
Mechanic, Refrigeration	56	8.00	14.50	22.50	14.36
Millwright	137	8.50	14.65	18.75	14.65
Oil Burner Repairer	39	7.00	12.00	16.00	11.56
Painter	252	5.00	9.00	16.00	9.01
Paperhanger	13	7.00	8.50	15.00	9.00
Paver, Bituminous	21	7.50	10.00	13.20	9.62
Pipe/Steam/Sprinkler Fitter	262	8.00	16.20	27.00	16.12
Pipelay	30	6.75	9.33	15.00	9.99
Plasterer	14	8.25	12.50	15.00	12.39
Plumber	254	6.50	12.00	16.50	12.05
Rigger	29	10.00	19.00	19.00	16.78
Roller Operator	32	6.00	8.00	12.45	8.21
Roofers	176	6.00	10.00	14.50	9.58
Sheet Metal Worker	314	5.50	11.50	19.23	11.71
Truck Driver, Light	64	5.00	8.00	15.00	8.03
Truck Driver, Heavy	333	6.00	8.00	14.00	8.34

**Trades in More Than One SIC**

Asbestos Removal Worker	146	7.00	10.38	16.00	10.69
Asphalt Raker	70	6.75	9.25	14.00	9.43
Backhoe Operator	320	5.37	10.50	20.50	10.78
Blaster	10	7.75	11.00	15.00	11.90
Boilermaker	18	6.50	16.62	22.67	16.37
Bricklayer	147	7.00	13.65	16.06	12.46
Bulldozer Operator	194	6.50	10.00	15.50	10.41
Carpenter	1,378	5.00	10.50	24.60	10.75
Cement Mason/Finisher	155	5.50	9.50	19.94	9.89
Crane Operator	85	8.00	12.50	17.81	12.47
Crusher Plant Operator	49	7.00	9.75	13.15	9.97
Driller, Rock	22	6.75	10.00	12.00	10.08
Dry wall Applicator	106	7.75	13.00	22.00	12.70
Dry wall Taper and Finisher	64	8.75	12.50	17.00	12.59
Electrician (Licensed)	644	6.50	15.00	26.00	15.30

Hourly Wage Rates For Selected Construction Trades, Maine, 1995  
(continued)

Number of Workers	Hourly Wage Rate				
	Low	Median	High	Average	
<b>Trades in More Than One SIC (continued)</b>					
Flagger	27	\$5.00	\$5.54	\$8.50	\$5.85
Floor Layer	10	7.50	8.88	13.50	9.23
Glazier	19	6.00	9.50	12.75	9.55
Grader/Scrap Operator	46	8.00	9.72	16.00	10.45
Hot Top Plant Operator	24	7.00	10.78	12.77	10.55
Insulation Installer	85	5.91	9.50	13.75	9.09
Ironworker, Reinforcing	91	8.00	15.36	19.32	13.95
Ironworker, Structural	233	7.00	14.50	18.07	13.20
Laborer, Helper	2,121	4.50	8.00	16.50	8.16
Line Erector	44	4.25	12.75	18.00	12.34
Loader Operator, Front End	222	5.50	9.50	15.40	9.79
Mechanic	294	5.50	11.00	19.00	11.66
Mechanic, Refrigeration	57	8.00	14.50	22.50	14.35
Millwright	277	7.50	14.63	22.50	14.42
Oil Burner Repairer	39	7.00	12.00	16.00	11.56
Painter	290	5.00	9.00	16.00	9.11
Paver, Bituminous	77	5.00	10.00	14.05	9.80
Pipe/Sewer/Sprinkler Fitter	465	7.50	15.00	27.00	15.35
Pipelaying	95	6.25	14.50	15.95	12.33
Plasterer	14	8.25	12.50	15.00	12.39
Plumber	259	6.50	12.00	18.50	12.08
Rigger	34	10.00	16.50	19.00	16.36
Roller Operator	128	5.18	9.19	12.77	9.37
Roofing	176	6.00	10.00	14.50	9.58
Sheet Metal Worker	330	5.50	11.37	19.23	11.62
Sider	17	5.00	10.00	12.00	9.59
Truck Driver, Light	124	5.00	8.00	15.00	8.20
Truck Driver, Heavy	828	6.00	8.15	15.36	8.45



AREA 1: Aroostook County, Upper Penobscot County (above Millinocket), Upper Piscataquis County (above Bowdoin College Grant).

AREA 2: Washington County, Hancock County, Waldo County, Lower Penobscot County (including Millinocket and Medway), Lower Piscataquis County (including Bowdoin College Grant).

AREA 3: Knox County, Lincoln County (excluding Dresden), Kennebec County, Androscoggin County (excluding Durham), Somerset County, Franklin County, Oxford County (excluding Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram), including the towns of Richmond, Harrison, and Ossfield.

AREA 4: York County, Cumberland County (excluding Harrison and Ossfield), Sagadahoc County (excluding Richmond), including the towns of Dresden, Fryeburg, Denmark, Brownfield, Porter, Hiram, and Durham.

**Notes**

**Average Wage:** The average wage is calculated by multiplying individual rates for each occupation by the number of workers paid that rate, adding the results and dividing by the number of workers in that occupation.

**Median Wage:** Literally, the middle rate, that is, no more than half the workers in a trade earn less and no more than half the workers earn more than this amount.

**Source of September 1995 employment data:** Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment.

Determinations Issued For 1995  
Area By Major Industry

	Building	Highway	Heavy & Bridge	Special*
Area 1	15	7	5	1
Area 2	44	15	9	1
Area 3	46	7	8	1
Area 4	27	7	10	1
Statewide	0	0	0	0

\*A Special determination is issued when it is necessary to combine different types of construction.